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INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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How to capture foxes where they have become too abundant, and thus prevent the destruction of poultry and game, is the subject of a new publication announced today by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

Because of the increase in population of foxes throughout the United States during recent years, it is not always possible to keep this animal in check solely by sportsmen with guns and dogs and by fur hunters, according to the Service.

Heavy infestations of foxes are a menace to human beings and domestic stock because they spread rabies in infected areas, which may originate from domestic dogs. During 1945 a severe and widespread outbreak of rabies in foxes and dogs in Georgia and other southern states took the lives of several persons.

The new publication summarizes general information on foxes and gives instructions for trapping and other methods of taking them. Fur hunters will find the suggestions on trapping useful to them.

The Service stresses the fact that in moderate numbers foxes are not excessively destructive and, in fact, do some good through their consumption of mice and other creatures that damage crops. Individual foxes, however, that prey on poultry or other domestic animals should be removed by trapping.

A copy of the publication, Circular No. 8, "Capturing Foxes," can be obtained at 5 cents a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. The circular is not for sale by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

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